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3 STATE OF VERMONT  
4 PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD  
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6 Docket No. 7032  
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8 Petitions of Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc.  
9 (“VELCO”), Green Mountain Power Corporation  
10 (“GMP”), and the Town of Stowe Electric  
11 Department (“Stowe”) and for a certificate of public  
12 good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248,  
13 authorizing VELCO to upgrade a substation in  
14 Moretown, Vermont; construct .3 miles of side by  
15 side single pole tap; construct a switching station in  
16 Duxbury, Vermont; construct 9.4 miles of 115 kV  
17 transmission line; upgrade an existing GMP 34.5  
18 kV subtransmission line; construct a substation in  
19 Stowe, Vermont; and for Stowe to construct 1.05  
20 miles of 34.5 kV subtransmission line in Stowe,  
21 Vermont.  
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24 VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES’ PREFILED TESTIMONY OF  
25 SUSAN K. BULMER  
26

27 **Q1. Please state your name, business address and occupation.**

28 A1. Susan K. Bulmer, Parks Regional Manager, Vermont Department of Forests,  
29 Parks and Recreation, 5 Perry St., Suite 20, Barre, Vermont 05641.

30 **Q2. Please describe your educational background and relevant work experience.**

31 A2. In 1982, I received a B.S. in Forestry Management with an emphasis on  
32 Recreation Management and a Minor in Environmental Law Enforcement from  
33 the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. In 1985, I received a M.S. in  
34 Recreation Resources Development with an emphasis on landscape architecture  
35 and planning for parks and recreation areas from Texas A&M University.

1 My relevant employment experience includes 20 years in park and recreation  
2 planning, park operations and development, and natural resources management.  
3 I have held my current position of Parks Regional Manager for Northeast Region  
4 of Vermont State Parks, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation from 1998  
5 to present. In this position I am responsible for the management, operations, and  
6 maintenance of the 18 state park units in the Northeast Region which includes  
7 Washington, Lamoille, Essex, Caledonia and Orleans counties. I previously held  
8 the position of State Recreation Planner with the Vermont Department of Forests,  
9 Parks and Recreation from 1988 through 1998. My job responsibilities included  
10 recreation planning and policy development in general, lakes and ponds recreation  
11 management planning; coordinating natural resource and land use management  
12 planning for state lands; conducting recreation research studies and surveys; and  
13 trails and greenways planning. See my attached. (Exhibit ANR-SB-1)

14 **Q3. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

15 A3. The purpose of my testimony is to provide the Department's and the Agency's  
16 position on the proposed VELCO transmission project with respect to the impacts  
17 to park and recreational visitors to Little River State Park, Waterbury Center State  
18 Park, Blush Hill Access Area, Waterbury Dam Access Area, Cotton Brook  
19 Access Area, and Waterbury Reservoir; and to provide recreational use  
20 information related to the recreational facilities associated with the Waterbury  
21 Reservoir.

22 **Q4. Are you familiar with the proposed Project?**

1 A4. I am generally familiar with the Project and its effects regarding the issues I listed  
2 above.

3 **Q5. Can you describe the general scope of the impacts on recreational users and**  
4 **facilities expected from the Project?**

5 A5. The existing Green Mountain Power (GMP) transmission line which crosses the  
6 Reservoir with its large orange balls and land-based structures already detracts  
7 from the aesthetics of the mostly undeveloped shoreline of Waterbury Reservoir.  
8 The VELCO project proposes to add larger H-frame structures on both shores,  
9 new 115 kV transmission lines with marker balls, as well as additional clearing of  
10 100 feet of vegetation on either side of the Reservoir crossing. This may result in  
11 increased negative impacts on the recreational experience of users of the  
12 Reservoir, which is mostly undeveloped and consists of a more natural  
13 environment. From the water, east of the power line or west of Waterbury Center  
14 State Park, looking west towards the Green Mountains, the proposed VELCO  
15 transmission line may result in increased obstruction of the near and far view of  
16 the shoreline and mountains. From the other direction, the proposed VELCO  
17 transmission line may also detract from the view of the Worcester Range in the  
18 east.

19 **Q6. Can you describe the recreational opportunities and importance of**  
20 **Waterbury Reservoir, the state parks and access areas?**

21 A6. The Waterbury Reservoir created by the Waterbury Dam extends upstream  
22 approximately 6 miles, is 839 acres in size and is largely surrounded by the  
23 34,000 acre Mount Mansfield State Forest. Waterbury Reservoir is one of the 10

1 largest bodies of water located wholly within Vermont and is the largest body of  
2 water in central Vermont. It is located close to the Barre/Montpelier/Waterbury  
3 population centers and the Stowe/Mad River Valley recreation centers. It is also a  
4 half hour drive from Chittenden County, where about 150,000 people reside.

5  
6 The Reservoir and surrounding lands provide opportunities for a variety of  
7 motorized and non-motorized activities, including swimming, boating, canoeing,  
8 kayaking, waterskiing, use of personal watercraft, sailing, fishing, camping,  
9 hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and hunting. There are two  
10 developed state parks located on the shores of Waterbury Reservoir: Little River  
11 State Park with 100 campsites, trails, a swimming beach, and boat launch; and  
12 Waterbury Center State Park with a day use area for picnicking, a swimming  
13 beach, trailored boat launch and canoe and kayak rentals. There are two additional  
14 trailer boat launches at the Waterbury Dam and at Blush Hill. A car top boat  
15 launch exists at the Cotton Brook access. Several dispersed camping, fishing and  
16 swimming sites occur around the reservoir shoreline, some accessible by road, but  
17 most by boat or foot. There are two established water-ski courses on the  
18 Reservoir: #1 in the northern arm within the 5 mph and no wake zone area; and #2  
19 between the Little River State Park, Loop A and the Waterbury Dam. An alternate  
20 #2 course is found near the Blush Hill Access.

21  
22 A potential 60,000+ visitors could visit the area annually with state parks and  
23 access areas found around Waterbury Reservoir. Its undeveloped shoreline

1 enhances its attraction for most recreational uses. In addition, there are no other  
2 lakes in the immediate vicinity of Waterbury Reservoir. The nearest lakes with  
3 public access include Wrightville Reservoir (150 acres); Curtis Pond (72 acres),  
4 Lake Elmore (219 acres); and Lake Iroquois (243 acres). A summer-long boat  
5 census on Waterbury Reservoir in 1993 by the Department found that summer  
6 afternoons were the most popular times for boating, with most use concentrated in  
7 the eastern arm and main body of the reservoir. The number of boats ranged from  
8 9 – 108 (motor and non-motorized). (Exhibit ANR-DF-2)

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10 As part of the GMP hydropower relicensing process, an inventory of the remote  
11 campsites around the reservoir was conducted in 1998/99. A total of 29 remote  
12 campsites are scattered around the shoreline and are accessible by boat only,  
13 though a few on the north shore of the east arm also have footpath access from the  
14 Gregg Hill Road. Nearly every campsite consists of a fire ring and tent site and a  
15 few also include primitive tables and privies.

16 There is also one very popular, though informal, swimming area located on the  
17 north shore of the east arm opposite the Blush Hill boat launch area in the area of  
18 the crossing of the proposed transmission lines. This site, referred to as  
19 Sunbather's Rock, consists of a large rock outcrop which is accessed by boat or  
20 trail off the Gregg Hill Road. Other areas around the reservoir are also suitable for  
21 swimming and receive public use.

22 **Q7. How are these recreational uses addressed by the Long Range Management**  
23 **Plan for the Mount Mansfield State Forest?**

1   A7.   The long-range management plan for Mount Mansfield State Forest includes  
2       management planning and use of the four state parks within its borders and the  
3       Waterbury Reservoir, which is almost completely surrounded by state land. As  
4       part of the planning process, a “Recreation Opportunity Spectrum,” which is an  
5       inventory and assessment process designed to focus on the character of the  
6       experiences a recreational user can expect to find on a parcel of land/water, was  
7       completed. The land surrounding the reservoir was typed as “Semi-Developed  
8       Natural.” This area is characterized by a natural appearing environment where  
9       evidence of the sights and sounds of people are moderate. Interaction between  
10      users may be low to moderate, but evidence of other users is prevalent. Areas are  
11      within ½ mile of improved roads. Motorized and mechanized uses may be  
12      permitted. Road and trail density is moderate, and many timber harvesting and  
13      vegetation management practices are compatible. Any new or proposed uses  
14      would need to fit into the setting and character of this ROS classification.  
15      In general, future plans and goals from the LRMP include continuing the  
16      management and operation of the state parks on the reservoir, developing a  
17      number of the informal remote campsites into designated remote campsites, and  
18      working with GMP through the hydropower relicensing process to improve  
19      recreational opportunities on the Reservoir and Little River by enhancing a  
20      number of recreational facilities in the area. Maintaining the undeveloped  
21      shoreline will continue to provide the type of experiences that the recreational  
22      users have come to expect at the Reservoir.

**Q8. Does the current FERC license for the Waterbury Hydroelectric Project address recreational uses and facilities on the Reservoir?**

A8. Since 1997, staff from the Agency of Natural Resources has been working with GMP during the relicensing process. I have been the Department's representative for the relicensing effort focusing on recreation issues and opportunities. GMP filed the "Initial Consultation Document for Waterbury Hydroelectric Project"(FERC No. 2090) in August 1997 and their Final License Application on August 27, 1999. The Agency requested that GMP conduct a recreational analysis of Waterbury Reservoir and Little River, which is included in their license application. (Exhibit ANR-SB-2) In their Final License Application to FERC, one of GMP's proposed recreational enhancements included, "at the Blush Hill site, a concrete plank boat ramp will be installed. In addition, another nearby parking lot may be rebuilt to provide additional off-site parking and help to resolve a problem of turning school buses at the end of the road..." (page E – 115; Final License Application, August 27, 1999). FERC, in its draft Environmental Assessment of the Waterbury Hydroelectric Project (dated August 2004), recommends that GMP develop and implement a recreation management plan, which included GMP's proposed enhancements at Blush Hill boat ramp (page 60, FERC Environmental Assessment, Aug. 2004).

**Q9: Does this conclude your testimony at this time?**

A9. Yes.